AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of providing selected text into a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) having the computer select a character in an alphabetical~~a~~ range ~~of characters~~;

(b) having the computer select a word as a function of the selected character, the selected word have a character sequence;

(c) presenting the word to the user; ~~and~~

(d) receiving an indication~~action~~ from the user pertaining to the selected character; and

(e) adjusting the range of characters or retaining the selected character based on the user's indication.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ step (d) ~~of receiving~~ includes receiving the~~an~~ indication that a user-desired character is ~~in a range~~ alphabetically preceding or alphabetically succeeding the computer-selected character, and wherein step (e) comprises adjusting the range of characters so that ~~wherein steps (a) - (d) are repeated where~~ the range of characters is approximately bounded by the selected character.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1~~2~~, wherein ~~the~~ step (d) ~~of receiving~~ includes receiving an indication to retain the selected character as one of a set of retained characters, and further comprising step (f) of advancing to the next character of the character sequence, if any~~, and wherein steps (a) - (d) are repeated where having the computer select a word includes having the computer select a word as a function of the set of retained characters~~.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, ~~2~~ and further comprising step (g) of ~~wherein the step of receiving includes~~ receiving an indication to accept the set of characters~~, wherein steps (a) - (d) are repeated with the set of retained characters comprising an empty set and the range of characters comprising a full range of characters~~.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, ~~wherein the~~ step (g) ~~of receiving~~ includes receiving an indication to remove ~~a~~at least one character from the set of retained characters~~, and wherein steps (a) - (d) are repeated~~.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~3~~ wherein step (a) ~~the step of having the computer select a character~~ includes having the computer select the character as a function of a probability of the character in the range of characters.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~3~~ wherein step (b) ~~the step of having the computer select a word~~ includes having the computer select the word as a function of a probability of the word.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, and further comprising successively repeating at least steps (a) and (d), wherein when repeating step (a), ~~having~~ the computer ~~select~~ selects the~~a~~ character ~~includes having the computer select a character~~ as a function of ~~a refined~~the adjusted range of characters for each succession.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein successively repeating at least steps (a) and (d) occurs when a new word cannot be selected in step (b).

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein when repeating step (a) ~~having the computer select a character includes having~~ the computer selects the ~~a~~ character as a function of the set of retained characters.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein step (a) ~~having the computer select the character~~ includes having the computer select the character as a function of an N-gram model.

12-17. canceled

18. (currently amended) A computing device comprising:
an input device;
an output device;
memory storing a lexicon;
a processor accessing the memory; and
a module including instructions executable by the~~on~~ processor to perform the steps of:
~~, the module~~ selecting a character in a range of characters arranged in alphabetical order;~~,~~
selecting a word from the lexicon as a function of the selected character, the word having a character sequence;~~,~~
presenting the word to the user through the output device;~~,~~ and
receiving an ~~action~~ indication from the user through the input device pertaining to the selected character to indicate whether the selected character matches or fails to match a user-desired character.

19. (original) The computing device of claim 18 wherein the input device comprises isolated buttons indicative of different responses.

20. (original) The computing device of claim 19 wherein at least some of the buttons are indicative of a subset of the alphabet.

21. (original) The computing device of claim 20 wherein the computing device comprises a telephone.

22. (original) The computing device of claim 19 wherein the computing device comprises a pager.

23. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) or step (b) are based on probability of words in a lexicon.

24. (new) The method of claim 2, and further comprising repeating steps (a) to (e) using the adjusted alphabetical range.

25. (new) The computer input device of claim 18, and further comprising instructions for adjusting the range of characters when the user indicates that the selected character is not the user-desired character.

26. (new) The computer input device of claim 18, and further comprising advancing to the next character in the character sequence when the user indicates that the selected character is the user-desired character.

27. (new) A computer readable medium including computer-executable instructions to perform the steps of:

(a) selecting a character in an alphabetical range;

(b) selecting a word based on the selected character;

(c) rendering the selected word, the word having a character sequence;

(b) receiving an indication from a user interface pertaining to the computer-selected character;

(e) adjusting the range of characters or retaining the selected character based on the user's indication.

28. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein receiving an indication comprises receiving an indication that the selected character is not the user's desired character.

29. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 28, and further comprising identifying a new alphabetical range approximately bounded by the previously selected character.

30. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein receiving an indication comprises receiving an indication that the selected character is the user's desired character, and further comprising advancing to the next character, if any, of the selected word's character sequence.

31. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 30, and further comprising receiving an indication that the next character is not part of the user's desired word.